

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (previously presented) Method for the preparation of a biological fertilizer comprising:

subjecting whey to a first fermentation step;

subjecting the fermented whey to a filtration step;

adding a cellulose-rich carrier material to the filtered fermented whey at a ratio of fermented whey to carrier material of between 10 and 15; and

subjecting the mixture of cellulose-rich carrier material and filtered fermented whey to a second fermentation step.

2. (canceled)

3. (previously presented) Method according to claim 1, further comprising, prior to and/or during the first fermentation of the whey, the inoculation of the whey with a culture of microorganisms.

4. (previously presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein the first fermentation is performed at a pH between 5 and 7.

5. - 6. (canceled)

7. (previously presented) Method according to claim 1, further comprising the addition

of lime.

8. (previously presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein the carrier material is a gum resin-poor carrier material.

9. (canceled)

10. (previously presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein the carrier material is selected from the group consisting of saw dust, beech saw dust, oak saw dust, dried nettle, and combinations thereof.

11. (previously presented) Method according to claim 1, further comprising the addition of trace elements, nutrients, minerals, growth hormones, stabilizers, organic compounds, and/or antibiotics.

12. (previously presented) Method according to claim 1 wherein the biological fertilizer is in a form selected from the group consisting of a powder, granules, a suspension, a dispersion, fibrous matter, a solution, a mixture, and combinations thereof.

13-22. (canceled)